

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A hydraulic system, comprising:

a hydraulic pressure source;

a tank;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

5 a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function; and

an independent metering valve assembly comprising: a first independently

controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the

hydraulic pressure source and the first hydraulic load, ~~and~~ a second independently controllable

infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic

10 pressure source and the second hydraulic load, and a third independently controllable infinitely

variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow from one of the first and second

independently controllable infinitely variable valves to the tank; said first and second

independently controllable infinitely variable valves having inlets concomitantly fluidly connected

to the hydraulic pressure source through a common inlet,

15 wherein said first load being independently and separably operable relative said

second load through said first independently controllable infinitely variable valve.

2. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A hydraulic system ~~of claim 1~~, comprising:

a hydraulic pressure source;

a tank;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

5 a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function; and

an independent metering valve assembly comprising: a first controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the first hydraulic load and a second controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the second hydraulic load,; said first and second controllable infinitely variable valves having inlets concomitantly fluidly connected to the hydraulic pressure source through a common inlet, wherein said first load being independently and separably operable relative said second load through said first controllable valve, said first hydraulic load including one of a fan motor and a brake, and said second hydraulic load including the other one of the fan motor and the

10 brake.

15

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The hydraulic system of claim + 2, said second hydraulic load including a pair of brakes, and including an adjustable valve fluidly interconnecting said second outlet with each of said brakes, said adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each of said brakes.

5. (currently amended) The hydraulic system of claim 1, ~~further comprising a third controllable infinitely variable valve~~, wherein said first independently controllable infinitely variable valve is disposed between said first hydraulic load and the hydraulic pressure source, ~~and~~ the second independently controllable infinitely variable valve is disposed between said second hydraulic load and the hydraulic pressure source and the third independently controllable

5

infinitely variable valve is ~~disposed~~ structured and arranged to control flow between one of the first or second hydraulic load and the tank.

6. (currently amended) The hydraulic system of claim 5, further comprising a fourth independently controllable infinitely variable valve disposed between the other of said one of the first or second hydraulic loads and said tank.

7. (currently amended) The hydraulic system of claim 1, including a first pressure sensor fluidly coupled with an outlet of said first independently controllable infinitely variable valve and a second pressure sensor fluidly coupled with an outlet of said second independently controllable infinitely variable valve.

Claims 8-20 (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) A hydraulic system, comprising:

a hydraulic pressure source;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function, the second

5 hydraulic load including a pair of brakes;

an independent metering valve assembly including a plurality of independently and electronically controllable valves, said independent metering valve assembly including an inlet fluidly coupled with said pressure source, a first outlet fluidly coupled with said first hydraulic load, and a second outlet fluidly coupled with said second hydraulic load; and

10 an adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each
of said brakes.

22. (previously presented) A work machine, comprising:

a frame;

a hydraulic system carried by said frame, said hydraulic system including:

a hydraulic pressure source;

5 a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function, the second
hydraulic load including a pair of brakes;

an independent metering valve assembly including a plurality of independently and
electronically controllable valves, said independent metering valve assembly including an inlet
10 fluidly coupled with said pressure source, a first outlet fluidly coupled with said first hydraulic
load, and a second outlet fluidly coupled with said second hydraulic load; and

an adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each
of said brakes.

23. (currently amended) A method of controlling output of a first hydraulic load
and a second hydraulic load using a common independent metering valve assembly, the method
comprising:

directing fluid from a pressure source to a first hydraulic load through a first
5 independently controllable infinitely variable valve in the valve assembly;

communicating ~~the directed~~ fluid from the pressure source to a second hydraulic load through a second independently controllable infinitely variable valve in the valve assembly; and

controlling flow downstream of one of the first or second hydraulic loads through a
 10 third independently controllable infinitely variable valve in the valve assembly, the third independently controllable infinitely variable valve being fluidly connected between the one of the first or second hydraulic loads and a tank.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising: controlling flow downstream of the other of the first or second hydraulic loads through a fourth independently controllable infinitely variable valve being fluidly connected between the other of the first or second hydraulic loads and the tank.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the first, second and third independently controllable infinitely variable valves are substantially similar.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising modifying flow between the second ~~control~~ independently controllable infinitely variable valve and the second load through an adjustable valve disposed therebetween.

27. (currently amended) ~~The A~~ method of ~~claim 23~~, controlling output of a first hydraulic load and a second hydraulic load using a common independent metering valve assembly, the method comprising:

directing fluid from a pressure source to a first hydraulic load through a first

5 controllable infinitely variable valve;

communicating fluid from the pressure source to a second hydraulic load through a

second controllable infinitely variable valve; and

controlling flow downstream of one of the first or second hydraulic loads through a

third controllable infinitely variable valve being fluidly connected between the one of the first or

10 second hydraulic loads and a tank;

wherein the first hydraulic load consists of a fan system and the second hydraulic load consists of a braking system.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of directing priority flow to the braking system.

29. (previously presented) A hydraulic system, comprising:

a hydraulic pressure source;

a tank;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

5 a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function; and

an independent metering valve assembly comprising: a first controllable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the first hydraulic load and a second controllable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the second hydraulic load, said first and second

10 controllable valves having inlets concomitantly fluidly connected to the hydraulic pressure source
through a common inlet,

wherein said first load being independently and separably operable relative said second
load through said first controllable valve; and

15 said second hydraulic load including a pair of brakes, and including an adjustable valve
fluidly interconnecting said second outlet with each of said brakes, said adjustable valve
controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each of said brakes.

30. (currently amended) A hydraulic system, comprising:

a hydraulic pressure source;

20 a tank;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function; and

an independent metering valve assembly comprising: a first independently
controllable valve being structured and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure
25 source and the first hydraulic load, ~~and~~ a second independently controllable valve being structured
and arranged to control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the second hydraulic load,
and a third independently controllable infinitely variable valve being structured and arranged to
control flow between the hydraulic pressure source and the tank; said first and second controllable
valves having inlets concomitantly fluidly connected to the hydraulic pressure source through a
30 common inlet,

wherein said first load being independently and separably operable relative said
second load through said first controllable valve; and

including a first pressure sensor fluidly coupled with an outlet of said first
controllable valve and a second pressure sensor fluidly coupled with an outlet of said second
35 controllable valve.

31. (previously presented) A method of controlling output of a first hydraulic load
and a second hydraulic load using a common independent metering valve assembly, the method
comprising:

directing fluid from a pressure source to a first hydraulic load through a first
5 controllable valve;

communicating the directed fluid from the pressure source to a second hydraulic
load through a second controllable valve; and

controlling flow downstream of one of the first or second hydraulic loads through a
third controllable valve being fluidly connected between the one of the first or second hydraulic
10 loads and a tank;

wherein the first hydraulic load consists of a fan system and the second hydraulic
load consists of a braking system; and

further comprising the step of directing priority flow to the braking system.